

ARTICLE
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Will Denton Committee Probe the IPS?

Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R.-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, has warned that the pro-Marxist Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), in a "systematic approach to strengthen its ties with Congress," is supporting "a network of progressive congressional aides" on Capitol Hill.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter sent to members of Congress, Denton called attention to a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine* on the IPS, entitled, "The Think Tank of the Left." Denton said the IPS is a "research group founded on self-described 'radical'... 'revolutionary'... and 'marxist'... principles."

Denton stressed that in 1978, at the request of 56 members of Congress, the IPS prepared a report on the federal budget that called for "a Socialist housing program," a strategy for organizing for "radical social change" in the educational system, and a "publicly controlled and operated health service."

"The study proposed" he went on, "to offset the cost of these programs by reducing our national defense budget by nearly 50 per cent. To accomplish this, the report suggested—among other things—our disengagement from our commitments in the Middle East."

"Since its inception," Denton said, "IPS has vigorously engaged in anti-American propaganda" and is now operating on a budget of nearly \$2 million a year. The senator noted that the leftist group publishes many books and that its "fellows" write articles for publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and *The Nation*, as well as for major newspapers.

His main reason for bringing the article to the attention of his colleagues, he said, "is centered on IPS' systematic approach to strengthen its ties with Congress." He added: "It appears that they plan to accomplish this in part by support of a network of progressive congressional aides described by an IPS publication as committed to 'educate... their bosses about left issues.'"

The network referred to by Denton is described in the article, written by Joshua Muravchik, as the "Progressive House Staff Group, launched by aides to Representatives Conyers and Dellums, two of the members of Congress who have been closest to IPS." Muravchik reported that "An IPS founding fellow, Gar Alperovitz, spoke at the group's first forum, which attracted 100 congressional aides."

The Muravchik piece, published two days after the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism opened hearings on terrorism and disinformation, and the Denton letter have created quite a stir in left-wing circles. Leftists fear that the IPS and its networks will become a subject of investigation by the new subcommittee.

The fear is not diminished by the fact that the Heritage Foundation study, "Mandate for Leadership," considered by some the "bible" of the new Administration, contained a section on the intelligence community, written by Dr. Samuel T. Francis, that described IPS as being "among the organized internal groups that could become internal security problems...." Francis included IPS in "a range of radical and New Left groups, some of whose members and leaders have expressed sympathy for North Vietnam and Cuba and who have had influence on federal policymaking in recent years...." Francis is now a legislative aide on national security to Sen. John East (R.-N.C.), a member of the Denton subcommittee.

Muravchik notes that IPS and its associates have praised not only North Vietnam and Cuba, but North Korea, Pol Pot, the PLO, and other Communist-backed terrorist movements.

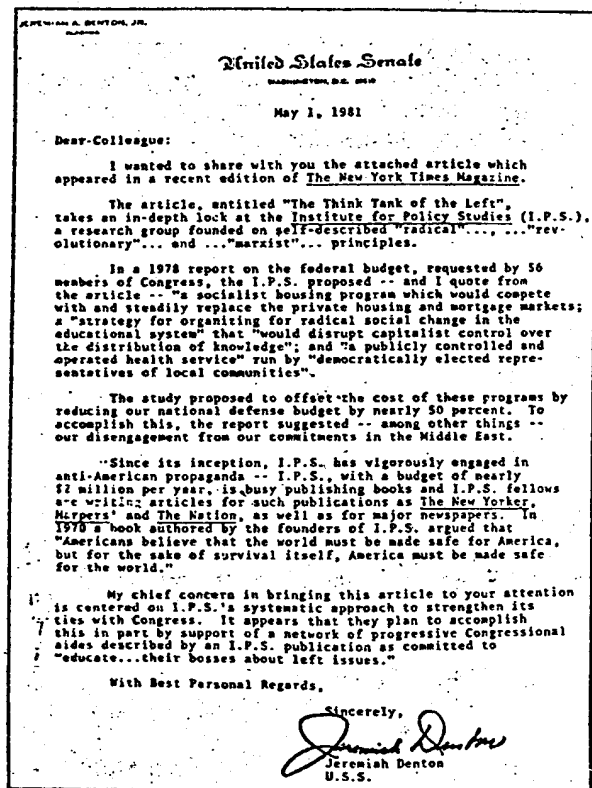
When asked for comment on the Denton letter, IPS co-founder Richard J. Barnet told HUMAN EVENTS, "I don't think the letter is worthy of response. The only fact in it that is correct is that we do write for the publications mentioned. Everything else in it is either false or so taken out of context and distorted as to convey a completely false impression of who we are and what we do."

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Barnett dismissed the *Times* article, which documents IPS' support for and ties with revolutionary movements and Communist governments, as "an attempt to use the traditional methods of innuendo, guilt by association, and broad-brush characterizations to discredit an institution that has opinions with which the writer of the article obviously disagrees."

Barnett refused to supply specific criticisms of the Muravchik piece, saying that his response to it will soon be published in the *Times* magazine.

The Muravchik article is the latest in a series of hart-hitting exposes of the IPS that have been published over the last year. Rael Jean Isaac's important article on IPS, "America the Enemy: Profile of a Revolutionary Think Tank," was first published in *Midstream* and was later reprinted by the Ethics and Public Policy Center.



Isaac charged that "IPS has consistently advocated policies that accord with the Soviet line, whether the issue is disarmament (for the West), abolition of nuclear power (for the West), support for Soviet-linked revolutionary groups, apologetics for Soviet expansion, etc."

The Western Goals Foundation published an analysis of the IPS written by John Rees, the editor and publisher of the authoritative *Information Digest*. Rees charged that through the doors of the IPS and its international affiliate, the Transnational Institute (TNI), "pass the radical

organizers who run support networks for various Soviet-backed revolutionary terrorist movements; others who head the disarmament, women's, and anti-nuclear power movements; diplomats including those identified as intelligence agents from Communist and pro-Soviet states and political parties; journalists from the major U.S. newspapers, and aspiring free-lance writers; apologists for totalitarian revolutionary regimes; members of the U.S. House and Senate, radical and liberal academics, and officials from the [Carter] White House and Administration."

The best-selling novel about Soviet disinformation and espionage, *The Spike*, written by Arnaud de Borchgrave and Robert Moss, has also focused attention on the IPS. A KGB-manipulated "Institute for Progressive Reform," which figures prominently in the novel as a conduit for Soviet disinformation, is widely assumed to be based on the IPS.

(New York *Times* reporter Charles Mohr told HUMAN EVENTS that he recently wrote an article for the *Times* on the right-wing criticism of the IPS. Mohr said the article also dealt with the IPS response and the question of "neo-McCarthyism." Mohr said he related this to the Heritage Foundation report, the Republican platform, and the Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism. Apparently, however, the story was "spiked." Mohr said it never ran in the *Times*.)

However, it's not McCarthyism or even neo-McCarthyism to document or investigate any IPS links with Communist intelligence services and governments and revolutionary terrorist organizations. IPS co-founder Richard Barnett, for instance, traveled to Hanoi during the Vietnam War to support the Communist enemy; former TNI Director Orlando Letelier received payments from Cuba and had contacts with Cuban intelligence officials in New York; and IPS fellows have given support to CIA defector Philip Agee, who collaborates with the Cubans against American intelligence.

Despite IPS' inroads into the Congress, and despite Denton's letter warning about the problem, the chief counsel of the Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, Joel Lisker, told HUMAN EVENTS that the subcommittee currently has no plans to investigate IPS.

Internal security experts suspect, however, that, based on the IPS' ties to movements and governments associated with the international terrorist network supported by the Soviet Union, such an investigation may loom in the future.